

In The Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 14 lines 1- 3:

The hub/switch uses a backend AAA infrastructure through the gatekeeper to authenticate the connecting user as described in previously cited patent applications Serial No. 08/866,819, and Serial No. ~~08/866,819~~ 08/955,869.

Priority

The Office Action states "Upon review of the previously filed pending applications, it has been determined that the presently claimed features relating to the system and method "for performing authentication" was newly added to this patent application. Therefore priority to an earlier application was not granted for this feature. Accordingly, the effective priority date for the newly added features found in the present application will be the actual filing date of this Patent Application, August 14, 2000." Applicants respectfully traverse this determination based on MPEP 201.08.

Applicants reefer to MPEP 201.08 Continuation-in-Part Application:

"Accordingly, an alleged continuation-in-part application should be permitted to claim the benefit of the filing date of an earlier nonprovisional application if the alleged continuation-in-part complies with the following formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 120:

(A) The first application and the alleged continuation-in-part application were filed with at least one common inventor;

(B) The alleged continuation-in-part application was filed before the patenting or abandonment of or termination of proceedings on the first application or an application similarly entitled to the benefit of the filing data of the first application; and

(C) The alleged continuation-in-part application contains or is amended to contain a specific reference to the earlier filed application."

The present invention complies with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C 120 therefore, Applicants request that the present invention be assigned the priority date of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/181,431, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled "METHOD, APPARATUS AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR COMPANION INFORMATION AND NETWORK APPLIANCES."

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully disagree that the presently claimed features relating to the system and method "for performing authentication" was newly added to the present invention. Applicants assert that "for performing authentication" is not a newly added feature and that "for performing authentication" is a feature of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/181,431, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled "METHOD, APPARATUS AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR COMPANION INFORMATION AND NETWORK APPLIANCES" (U.S. Patent Application No. 6,161,134).

Inter alia, in U.S Patent No. 6,161,134, Column 3 lines 41-46, "In some embodiments, prior to connecting the portable computer with the telephone, the computer stores user information. The user information can include an

identification corresponding to the portable computer, user access parameters, and user characteristics corresponding to the telephone operating parameter data." The "user access parameters" can be used "for performing authentication." Applicants would like to point out that this is one of many examples where "for performing authentication" is taught in U.S Patent No. 6,161,134. Therefore, "for performing authentication" is a feature taught by U.S Patent No. 6,161,134. As such, Applicants assert that "for performing authentication" is not a newly added feature of the present invention and that the present invention should be assigned the priority date of October 30, 1998.